



## **QUARTERLY TECHNICAL PERFORMANCE MONITORING REPORT**

PERIOD COVERING JANUARY 01, 2005 – MARCH 31, 2005

### **Bolivia Anti-Corruption Program**

Contract Number AEP-I-00-00-0010-00

Task Order Number 811

Submitted to:

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### **Bolivia Anti-Corruption Support Program**

Casals and Associates, Inc. (C&A) is pleased to submit this quarterly report for the work carried out during the months of January, February, and March 2005. This first three months of 2005 marked an important consolidation and preparation period, despite changes of leadership and even direction in three of the six government counterparts with whom the program works. The National Police, Attorney General's Office, and the Contraloría all changed leadership; all re-affirmed their predecessors' commitment to work with USAID/Casals in the anti-corruption program, and the work continues, with adjustments requested.

Most significantly, the anti-corruption task forces earned the trust of two new district attorneys and accepted two very significant and precedent-setting corruption cases for investigation and prosecution. The program also expanded its support for three regional anti-corruption offices to include fighting corruption at the municipal level; signed grant agreements with six non-profit organizations to implement the country's first ever anti-corruption projects for civil society; completed the development of four anti-corruption training modules for civil society; and completed ethics codes that were accepted by the National Police, the Judicial Power, and the Attorney General's Office.

The program also completed work on the design and approval stage of a national mass education campaign and began the hiring process for 14 attorneys who will work in Project Against Impunity, finishing the prosecution of corruption and other serious cases that have lingered in the prosecutorial and judicial system for more than five years.

As well, the Program revised its Action Plan, to include requests from the major government counterpart, the Presidential Anti-Corruption Delegation (DPA), to expand program support for the mass education campaign and regional anti-corruption offices see, and reviewed its mid-term progress in a day long session with CTO Alvaro Galvez and USAID/AAA consultant Gerardo Berthin from Washington.

The Program began coordinating with USAID/AAA (America's Accountability and Anti-Corruption Project), at the request of USAID/Bolivia, in an additional series of activities to survey the "costs of corruption" in Bolivia, train civil society organizations in the small grants program on how to form an anti-corruption network, and closely document the experience of the small grant recipients so that the model projects can be replicate both in Bolivia and throughout the world. Planning for the activities began in February, with initial steps scheduled for April.

The Program is also coordinating with the United States Embassy in a series of three anti-corruption sanction "teleconferences" that it will jointly present in September on specific themes in investigating and prosecuting corruption. These conferences, composed of a panel of U.S. and Bolivian experts, and with participation from an audience of Bolivian prosecutors, police, financial investigators, and judges, will take place within an international conference on sanction of corruption that Casals will present.

### **Activities Carried Out**

#### **Component I - Improve Transparency, Efficiency, and Public Management**

C&A held meetings with key counterparts at the national and sub-national levels to discuss program strategy and the needs of project counterparts in order for them to: a) participate efficiently and effectively in the program, and b) assist C&A in the development of a time-phased work plan and budget for program activities.

Key counterpart entities at the national level include:

- Anti-Corruption Office in the Office of the Presidency
- Office of the Comptroller General
- Office of the Accountant General
- Office of the Auditor General

Tentative agreements were made with all the above-mentioned entities in terms of their participation in the program. Formal agreements will be signed with each entity after USAID approves the work plan and budget. These entities agreed to be part of a project coordinating committee that will provide overall guidance and support to the program.

Scheduling difficulties did not permit C&A to meet with the Administrative Department of the Public Function (DAFP) to make tentative agreements for their participation in this program component and in the project coordinating committee. A meeting is scheduled in early to mid-July. The program design anticipates that DAFP will take a lead role in ushering legislation through the GOC that will establish the USAID-Casals Internal Control Model as the unified internal control standard for all national and sub-national public entities. C&A anticipates that the other project coordinating committee members will assist the DAFP in this effort.

In addition to making tentative agreements with GOC national entities, C&A has also requested proposals from successful subcontractors under the first phase of the anti-corruption program, “Strengthening Transparency and Accountability,” to submit technical and cost proposals for follow-on activities.

At the sub-national level, C&A has discussed participation in the new program with the Gobernaciones and capital cities in the following five departments:

- Antioquia
- Atlántico
- Bolívar
- Valle del Cauca
- Nariño

Other sub-national entities are being reviewed with USAID and will be presented in the work plan for approval.

### **Component II - Citizen Oversight**

C&A held meetings with partner civil society organizations (CSOs) in the four departments that C&A worked in during the first phase of the program in order to develop plans for the second phase. The project also identified a new CSO partner, Fundación Funcicar, in the Department of Bolívar. Under the second phase of the program, C&A is increasing its efforts to obtain more private sector participation in this component. In addition, we have held meetings with Occidental of Colombia (OXY) to investigate opportunities of utilizing OXY's Fundación El Alcaraván as a CSO partner in the Department of Arauca.

C&A has also held meetings with GOC national entities who are supporting citizen oversight activities in order to coordinate our efforts and review emerging national policies as a result of the passage of new legislation on veedurías, Law 850 (December 2003). Meetings were held with the following national entities:

- Comptroller General
- Administrative Department of the Public Function
- Office of Anti-Corruption in the Office of the Presidency
- Ministry of the Interior

### **Component III - Supporting Civil Society--Small Grants**

C&A has developed a draft implementation plan and preliminary procedures for administering this grant program. C&A has received various proposals from NGOs, the GOC and the US Embassy that include innovative activities that are supportive of the objectives of USAID Colombia's anti-corruption program. Final procedures for administering this grant program will be provided for USAID approval during the next quarter per contract requirements.

#### **Component IV - Fiscal Planning and Management Process**

C&A presented a draft work plan to the Ministry of Hacienda for review. This draft work plan was based on the terms of reference in the RFP for this contract. To the surprise of both USAID/Colombia and C&A, the MOH decided that it wants to change the scope of the assistance to be received under this program. USAID/Colombia is awaiting a revised scope of assistance from the MOH before deciding on the next steps on this component.

#### **Current and Potential Problem Areas**

As discussed above, the Ministry of Hacienda does not appear to be interested in the assistance package requested in the USAID RFP and in the activities proposed by C&A in the technical proposal and work plan. USAID/Colombia will need to decide whether what the MOH wants to do is of interest to the Mission.

#### **Future Activities**

1. Finalize work plan and budget and submit to USAID/Colombia for approval.
2. Meet with DAFP to solicit their participation in the program.
3. After work plan and budget are approved, sign agreement with GOC counterpart institutions at national and sub-national levels.
4. Meet with the Governor of Cesar to solicit his participation in the program.
5. Meet with CSO partners in all departments and solicit work plans and budgets.
6. Sign contracts with new staff.
7. Sign contracts with subcontractors.
8. Develop final procedures for approval of grants under Component III.